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TWO INDIAN BILATERAL GYNANDROMORPH BUTTERFLY SPECIMENS

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Although bilateral gynandromorphs have been reported in almost all families of butterflies, no examples have so far been reported from India. Evans (1932) mentions that, "Gynandromorphs, i.e. butterflies partly male and partly female, are very rarely to be found." No further mention of this phenomenon is made nor are any Indian examples noted. The present report is based on two specimens in the collection of the Wankhar Memorial Museum of Entomology at the above address. Both specimens are without labels and therefore it is not possible to know where or when they were recorded. One indisputable bilateral gynandromorph is a specimen of the Yellow Orange Tip *Ixias pyrene* (Linnaeus, 1764). The left pair of wings are of a male and the right side of a female. It is likely that the specimen was collected in north eastern India, since peninsular Indian females of this species are not as dark on the forewing as the north eastern ones (Peter Smetacek, *pers. comm.*).

The male forewing measures 33 mm and the female forewing measures 32 mm. A second indisputable bilateral gynandromorph is a specimen of the Colour Sergeant *Athyma nefte inara* (Westwood, 1850). In this specimen, the right pair of wings is of a male and the left side is of a female. The female wings are rather larger than the male, as is normal in the species, except that in this case the result is that the butterfly is not symmetrical, with the left forewing measuring 38 mm and the right forewing measuring 33 mm. These two specimens appear to be the first gynandromorph butterflies reported from India, although the phenomenon is not unknown in other parts of the world. Indeed, the phenomenon would go unnoticed in those species that do not exhibit sexual dimorphism.

Reference

Evans, W.H. 1932. *The Identification of Indian Butterflies*. 2nd ed. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay. x + 454 pp., 32 pl.



Fig.1: *Ixias pyrene*



Fig.2: *Athyma nefte inara*